

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 11, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to remove the alleged informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of 1-10 and 12 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Inoue in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,024,616 (Ohira). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Inoue and Ohira in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,820 (Nakakita). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over

Inoue and Ohira in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,276,674 (Tanaka).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Inoue, Ohira and Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,774 (Inoue-Sadayuki). Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Inoue, Ohira and Tanaka in view of an article entitle "Subspace subcodes of Reed-Solomon codes" (Hattori). Further, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Inoue, Ohira and Tanaka in view of WO 99/34271 (Tolhuizen). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8, 10 and 12 are patentable over Inoue, Ohira, Nakakita, Tanaka, Inoue-Sadayuki, Hattori and Tolhuizen for at least the following reasons.

In particular, it is respectfully submitted that Inoue, Ohira, Nakakita, Tanaka, Inoue-Sadayuki, Hattori, Tolhuizen, and combinations thereof, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 12 which, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

adding bits of a predetermined number to the first code words to form second code words over a second Galois field arranged in the columns of said code block, wherein the bits have different bit values and comprise an identical sequence of bits added to each row.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-8 and 10 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each dependent claim. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of

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the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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